

THE NOXIOUS NEWS

March 2003

EURASIAN MILFOIL BIOCONTROL

By Jenifer Parsons

IN THIS ISSUE

Milfoil Biocontrol.....	1
State Weed bills.....	2
Weed Awareness week review	
*Steve's Overview.....	3
*Sheilah Kennedy's Notes from DC.....	4
Dana's Dish.....	4
In Brief	
* Forage Kochia.....	6
*Arundo paper pulp....	6
*CWMA's.....	7
**PNW-EPPC.....	7
*State Wide Biocontrol.....	7
Editors notes.....	8
Calendar of Events.....	8
Update.....	9

Check out the Web for more information.

www.nwcb.wa.gov

The aquatic invasive non-native plant Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) has been in Washington State since at least 1965 when it was collected from Lake Meridian in King County. Since that time it has been introduced to more than 90 lakes and reservoirs and many major rivers including the Columbia, Okanogan, Snake and Pend Oreille Rivers.

The milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) has been implicated in causing declines of Eurasian milfoil populations in Midwestern and Northeastern States. This weevil is native to the northern part of the United States, including Washington. The weevil's native host is the native northern milfoil (*Myriophyllum*

sibiricum), however, if the weevil is reared on Eurasian milfoil then it will prefer that species over northern milfoil. The weevils spend their entire life cycle on milfoil, and while adults will eat leaves, most damage is done by larvae that mine into the stem causing a reduction in plant buoyancy.

During the summer of 2002 we initiated a weevil rearing and augmentation study to gain experience collecting and raising weevils, and to attempt to establish a weevil population in a lake with Eurasian milfoil. We collected adult weevils from Stan Coffin Lake in Grant County by snorkeling. These were then kept in aquariums at the Fish and

Wildlife Department buildings in Yakima for 5 to 14 days. During this time eggs were laid on the growing tips of fresh milfoil. The eggs hatched in 3-6 days and the larvae ate the growing tips, then burrowed into the milfoil stems. At the end of the rearing period the eggs and larvae were counted, and released to a small fishing lake near Ellensburg (Mattoon Lake). This cycle was continued throughout the summer, and when all was done we had released a total of nearly 3,000 weevils of all life stages.

We have not yet seen evidence of weevil establishment in Mattoon Lake; however it may take a few years for the weevil numbers to build to a level that can exercise some control on the milfoil. We were encouraged

by the substantial weevil population in Stan Coffin Lake where we collected the adults. Weevils there were in densities known to control Eurasian milfoil growth, and in fact we collected weevils on northern milfoil because there is so little Eurasian milfoil present in the lake.

This year we plan to continue this project, aided by an intern hired through the Department of Agriculture. We also plan to inventory several lakes in King County to look for a test lake there and to check for natural weevil populations. If you have any questions about this project please contact me at 509-457-7136 or jenp461@ecy.wa.gov.



Adult weevil (about 4 mm long (1/8 inch) photo by R. Newman RMN lab



IMPACT: BILLS CONCERNING WEED CONTROL

By Steve McGonigal

Several bills introduced in the current session of the Washington State Legislature would impact noxious weed control if enacted into law.

March 5 was the “cutoff” for most types of legislation to be passed out of the committee where it originated. This report outlines the situations of the weed-related bills following the cutoff.

ENTRY ONTO PROPERTY

Senate Bill 5108 started out as a 54-page bill prohibiting most government officials, including employees from county weed boards and weed districts, from entering onto private property without specific permission or a warrant.

Applicable portions of the bill were shared by the WSNWCB with county weed boards and weed districts, several of which consulted with the staffs of their county prosecuting attorneys. This process revealed that many county weed boards and weed districts would experience significant operational difficulties if SB 5108 passed in its original form.

The State Weed Board sent a panel of three to testify at the SB 5108 hearing before the Senate Committee of Land Use and Planning on February 13. Tony Stadelman, of Grant County Weed District #3, described the anticipated impact on weed districts. Steve McGonigal of the WSNWCB staff outlined the expected limitations and additional costs that the bill would impose on county weed boards. State Weed Board Chairman Ray Fann concluded the panel presentation by asking the Committee not to include weed control in the bill.

Following the hearing, a vastly different bill emerged. Proposed Substitute Senate Bill 5108 is just over 4 pages. A copy of that bill was also provided to each local weed control program.

At one legislative hearing, a document purporting to analyze the “effect” of PSSB5108 was distributed. It read, in part: “Local government public officials or employees are not subject to the provisions of this bill; it only applies to state public officials or employees.”

One deputy county prosecuting attorney expressed an opinion that the document concerning the “effect” did not reflect the actual language in the bill. As the newsletter went to press, efforts were continuing to

convince legislators to alter the bill to more clearly state that local officials will not be impacted.

STATE PROPERTY PURCHASES AND WEED CONTROL

Three bills have been introduced to address land purchases by state government, and noxious weed control on those lands.

Senate Bill 5020 and House Bill 1730 were very similar. They would have limited state government purchase of land in counties where public, federal and tribal land together constituted more than 70 percent of the county. In such counties, a purchase by state government could not go forward without the consent of the county legislative authority and the posting of a bond to guarantee that the land would be managed for control of noxious weeds and the maintenance of forest health.

Both SB 5020 and HB 1730 failed to make it out of their committees by the first cutoff, and are considered dead for this session.

However, Substitute Senate Bill 5518 is alive. If enacted into law, it would require the posting of a bond or other financial guarantee that noxious weeds will be controlled before certain types of land purchases could be made. The legislature would have to direct an agency to make such a purchase, after a hearing by the county legislative authority. The types of transactions it would govern would be fee simple purchases of private parcels over five acres for habitat conservation, ecosystem preservation, wetland mitigation or endangered species protection.

As the newsletter went into production, SSB5518 had been passed by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

CLOPYRALID NOTIFICATION

House Bill 1994 would have required that a person supplying material to a composting facility provide notification of the herbicide ingredient clopyralid had been used on that material within the past two years. The bill failed to make it out of committee, and is considered dead for this session.

If you have any questions concerning these bills please contact Steve smcgonigal@wa.gov

“WEEDS AWARENESS WEEK” DRAWS RECORD PARTICIPATION

By Steve McGonigal

A record-high 110 people from around the country traveled to Washington DC to participate in the fourth annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week February 24 through 28.

Meetings with federal government agencies and national organizations were features of the five-day event, as were visits by participants to the offices of members of Congress from their home states and districts. The 11 offices of Washington State’s Congressional delegation were visited by Sheilah Kennedy of the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board and Steve McGonigal of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. The visits included direct conversations with Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Jay Inslee.

While lobbying for weed control on federal land and across the nation, participants in NIWAW this year also specifically sought support for two pieces of federal legislation.

In the Senate, the Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003, S. 144, has been reported out of committee and is farther along in the legislative process than similar bills have been at this point in past Congressional sessions.

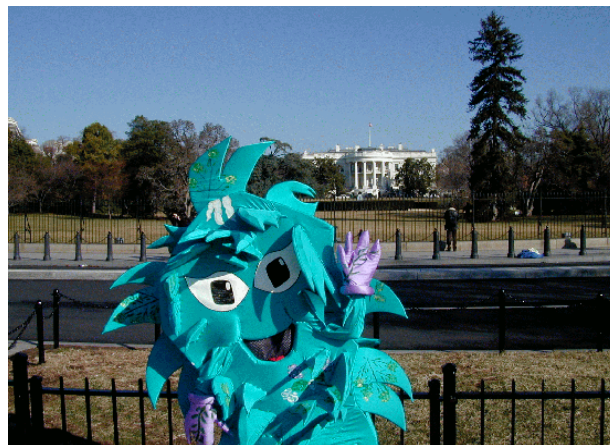
House Resolution 119, the Harmful Invasive Weed Control Act, is similar. If enacted into law, they would provide \$100 million annually in federal funds to local “weed management entities,” with the money being distributed through state governments. The local entities would be required to be “multijurisdictional in nature.”

While responses varied, there was substantial support within the Washington State Congressional delegation for the companion bills. Further information is being supplied to some offices.

A half-day meeting was held with administrators of the United States Department of Agriculture and several of its component agencies, including the Forest Service. A similar briefing by the Department of the Interior saw reports from the

National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geologic Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. One speaker noted that the Department of the Interior manages one of every five acres in the United States.

Efforts to coordinate weed control work across many federal agencies were outlined in a meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds, or FICMNEW.



DC Weedy Week of Fun

Notes from

Sheilah Kennedy, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Manager

Senator Murray Appropriations

Met with Doug Clapp, legislative assistant to Senator Murray, who stated the senator supports invasive species and will support S 144. Senator Muurray was able to appropriate one million for aquatic noxious weed species removal that actually assists in developing a mechanical machine to address harvesting instead of herbicide.

I provided information of the constant seed source entering US from Canada's waterway. I also noted that our program will never be successful if we can not get a Coordinated partnership between Canada and US/Okanogan County. Once invasive weed species seed source enters the US it travels through Lake Osoyoos-Okanogan River-Columbia River and it is our job to do something to prevent this from occurring. Doug agreed and said he is open to ideas if I could provide one for them. I suggested a test plot partnership where Canada could provide a buffer with experimental devices to be utilized in the waterway to stop the seed and plant fragments. He liked that idea and wanted more information and what is needed. Doug asked several questions on treatment methods.

I Invited Doug and Senator Murray to our Legislative tour in August and he said they would be here.

Senator Cantwell ----Dan Sakura

Provided information of the constant seed source entering US from Canada's waterways. How our program will never be successful if we can not get a Coordinated partnership between Canada and US/Okanogan County. Once invasive weed species seed source enters the US it travels through Lake Osoyoos-Okanogan River-Columbia River and it is our job to do something to prevent this from occurring.

I discussed the impact of Federal Agencies not being good neighbors, especially with our economy in Okanogan County and gave the example that if we asked the Orchardists if they have money to control all the weeds in the vacant orchard acres they "don't" so when we get the excuse from USFS that they don't have the funding it is unacceptable. Dan asked what is being done with all the acres out of production. I explained that most of them are full of weeds. If they did not have the money to replant, then they really don't have the funding to control weeds. However it is an area that we are attempting to address but have not been successful in any grants to provide weed control and perhaps re-seeding these areas. He wanted more information and help find a solution.

Representative Doc Hastings 4th District House Budget Committee-----Tyler Prout

Updated Tyler on our FS issues and the fact that the ONF 2000 EA was finally approved Fall of 2002. ONF will have to immediately start a new EA process to address the Orange Hawkweed that has escaped outside the specific areas addressed in the 2000 EA. I stated that Okanogan

County appreciates all the support Doc gives us and invasive noxious weed species issues. I invited them to our legislative tour. They said they look forward to our tours. I explained that we hopefully will travel into Canada to see the Purple Loosestrife along all the water way areas in Canada that are providing seed source into the US entering at Lake Osoyoos-Okanogan River-Columbia River. We need t find a working solution to this situation. He agreed and offered to assist and looks forward to our tour.

Representative George Nethercutt Jr. 5th District Committee on Appropriations/Interior-----Jack Silzel

Jack asked when "we" were going to have another field day and I replied "this August." He said he will be here. I discussed the Canada issues and concerns and he agreed that something needs to be done. I informed him that we hopefully will travel into Canada to see the waterway areas full of Purple Loosestrife providing seed source into our water way areas. Jack will look into seeing if the language for the ONF to utilize 300,000.00 and work with the Okanogan County Weed Board is still in the Appropriations bill and let me know. We have full support for HR 119.

Jack stated that he wishes every county could have a program like Okanogan. We discussed Douglas County and their lack of a Weed Board existing. Jack said he wants to talk to Congressman Nethercutt and try to get him to send a letter to Douglas County and WA ST Dept. of Ag to address this issue.

We have very strong support from Congressman Nethercutt and staff.

Representative Jay Inslee 1st District House Committee on Resources-----Jennifer Cromwell

Met with Jennifer and discussed HR 119 and she is very interested in supporting this Bill. She asked why this is so important and I explained that it required partnerships between all agencies and when Okanogan County has 1.5 million acres of USFS land in my county, partnerships are very important. She agreed and better understood. I also stated that HR 119 has 100 million funding attached, it sounds like a lot of money but when this is divided throughout 50 States it will not be enough, but it IS a start.

While talking to Jennifer, Congressman Inslee entered the room and asked how he could control his Purple Loosestrife, he is getting tired of pulling.

Representative Rick Larson 2nd Dist-----Evan Schatz

Provided HR 119 and Evan was very familiar with this legislation. He stated that Congressman Larson fully supports invasive species. Larson wants to provide and schedule hearings on the Invasive Species Issues before the Committees. We offered our assistance and Evan stated that he will take us up on the offer.

**Representative Brian Baird 3rd Dist. House Budget Committee-----Teal Baker- Scheduler
Chris Schloesser**

He was very supportive of invasive species issues and is familiar with HR119. Congressman Baird will support this piece of legislation without a problem at all. Chris stated that Congressman Baird is working on two aquatic species bills. They are close to the same ones as last year HR5395 and HR5396. Each of these bills will have funding attached.

**Representative Jim McDermott 7th Dist.
Sean Hughes**

Was really not open to invasive species but I believe it is because he is not familiar with them. He was under the impression weeds are a range land problem. He requested

information from his specific district from our State Executive Secretary Steve McGonigal.

Representative Jennifer Dunn 8th Dist.

I provided some specific situations and explained how and why HR 119 is so important because it requires partnerships between agencies down to the ground level where the work gets performed. I quoted our 1.5 million acres of USFS lands in Okanogan County and she better understood.

Representative Adam Smith 9th Dist. Committee on International Relations and House Committee on Resources

Provided information on S-144 and HR 119 I will follow up with phone call.

DANA'S DISH

WHERE YOU FIND OUT WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING

The last 8 months has been a whirlwind for me. I am still trying to find everything in the office and fighting my system of forgetting where I filed things. I felt that this would be a good opportunity to fill many of you in on what I have been doing during my time here and what I have on my plate for the near future.

In my time here I have visited 11 counties and have tried to speak with every coordinator in the state. I have gone through numerous papers to familiarize myself with plants in the area, and I have some how found time to find the restrooms in our sea of cubicles. I have also had the great opportunity to research and write the findings for 5 species that were proposed for the 2003 state noxious weed list. To date, I have given 6 talks and I have accompanied the displays to 3 functions. I attended the Purple Loosestrife beetle collection day and also did a day of diving for milfoil weevils. I have also had the great opportunity to work with the WSU extension group and various interested parties on a State Wide Noxious Weed video, due out this coming December. I have also had the opportunity to attend various meetings concerning Cooperative Weed Management Areas within the state. To top off all of that fun I decided to work on our web site. I am currently working to keep it up to date and provide weed brochures on the web.



Needless to say I have not had too much time to get myself into trouble. I have enjoyed the ride on this steep learning curve and I am excited to continue to learn more about the state and what my job is.

Looking ahead: My goals for this next year include making my way around the state and seeing problems first hand. I will be trying to meet with every coordinator at their offices and getting them to show me what there problems are. I hope to get more involved in the CWMA's in the state and I also hope to play a role in the group that is putting together a state wide Plan. I intend to place one page brochures on the web in addition to the written findings, and I hope to update the web at least once per month. I will also be working on digitizing all of our photos and placing them on the web in a photo herbarium.

My job has been both fun and challenging these last few months. I am anticipating the future and what it will bring for our program. I look forward to meeting many new people and keeping myself busy. I don't foresee that I will have any dull moments in this job, nor do I think that I will ever get through everything that I would like to. My hope is that I can help as many of the coordinators as possible and that I can appropriately represent the weed board to the public.

If you have any suggestions as to things that you would like to see come out of this office please let me know dcoggon@agr.wa.gov.



IN BRIEF

IMMIGRANT FORAGE KOCHIA, KOCHIA PROTSTRATA FRIEND OR FOE

The mere idea of a kochia species being produced and promoted as a good plant sends fear into the minds of many weed-conscious people. Though research has been done on this species many people point out that there still needs to be more done to determine the plant's ability to become a plant of

concern.

Below I have listed some information on the plant

Plant information: Immigrant Kochia is a native of the semiarid and arid Central Eurasia. It is a polyploid plant that was released for use as a forage and soil erosion control on the semi-desert rangelands of the intermountain West. Though the exact mode of reproduction has not been thoroughly studied, it is noted as prolific seed producer. The root system is a combination of both fibrous roots and one tap root that can be up to 16ft.

Promoters note that, Immigrant Kochia has undergone 16 years of testing by the USDA Forest Service (FS) Shrub Science Laboratory and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources on sites in AZ, ID, NV, OR, and UT. Research results indicate that this will not be an invasive species but rather, it will out compete a variety of invasive annuals. The presence of this species has been noted to increase land renovation, create usable forage and habitat for native species, and increase biodiversity in areas dominated by non-native grasses.

What do you think? Let me know and I can post some discussion on the web.

For more information <http://kochiaseed.com/index.html>.

ARUNDO SPECIES PROPOSED FOR PAPER PRODUCTION.

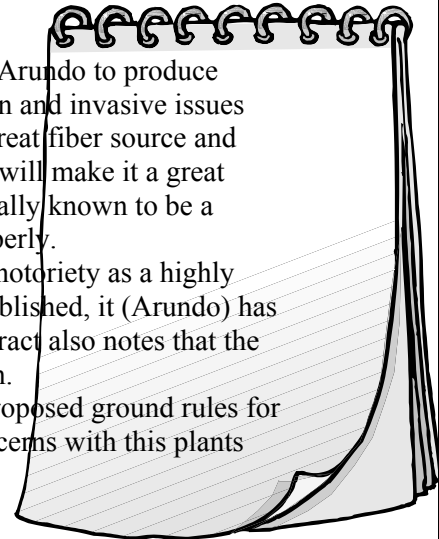
Recent emails have indicated that groups in Washington are looking to use Arundo to produce paper. Sarah Reichard attended a meeting in early March to discuss the production and invasive issues surrounding this species. Sarah reported that the pulp group feels that Arundo is a great fiber source and could provide abundant biomass. They feel that these two characteristics combined will make it a great "crop" for production of quality copy paper. The group argued that Arundo is generally known to be a sterile plant and felt that it would not be of much ecological concern if handled properly.

The weed community has voiced concerns surrounding this species and its notoriety as a highly aggressive plant. The ELEMENT STEWARDSHIP ABSTRACT states "When established, it (Arundo) has a strong ability to outcompete and completely suppress native vegetation." The abstract also notes that the mode of propagation is not through seeds but rather through vegetative reproduction.

Sarah is working with the group of promoters to provide them with some proposed ground rules for growing this species. She has pointed out to the pulp group that there are major concerns with this plant's possible movement out of the cultivated areas into natural areas. Check the state weed board web site for any updates to this story.

PNW- EPPC

Mandy Tu of The Nature Conservancy is working on putting together interested constituents from Idaho, Oregon and Washington to form the Pacific Northwest Exotic Pest Plant council (PNW-EPPC). The PNW-EPPC will be similar to the Cal-EPPC that has been noted for their great successes in creating strong relations with multiple concerned groups, and providing educational information to the public. The mission of the PNW-EPPC will be to protect Pacific Northwest landscapes from invasive non-indigenous plants by providing an open forum to share information and to promote solutions. The ground work for this group will begin by contacting interested people, and organizing a core group to facilitate the council.





CWMA's

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS ARE ALIVE IN WASHINGTON

There are multiple groups throughout the state that are participating in cooperative weed management areas. With these groups in mind the state has formed a working group to put together a State Wide Management Plan. The goal of this group is to formalize a state level plan for weed control by looking at the ecological boundaries rather than just the legal boundaries. The group is still looking for stake holders to join in the formation of this state wide plan. For more information contact Greg Haubrich, ghaubrich@agr.wa.gov.

STATE WIDE BIOCONTROL PROGRAM.

The State wide biocontrol program will hold its first state wide meeting following the coordinators conference. The success of the quad county program has encouraged the WSU group to look at a state wide biocontrol program. This program will be designed to provide educational materials, and a forum for sharing of biocontrol knowledge. This State wide meeting will address the issues of continuing the pilot program and examine possible funding sources.



EDITORS NOTES:

Materials:

Written Findings are done for the new 2003 weed species, you can either request a hard copy or pull them off of the internet. I will be working on updating old findings this coming year and am looking for your suggestions. I will be providing coordinators with a CD at the coordinators conference that contains the written findings, Images of the 2003 weeds, and the directory. Please let me know if you need the images in Slide form. I will be doing a count at the conference and then sending out the slides in the near future.

I will also be bringing extra slides from my office. I have found a number of slides that I already have a copy or two of. I would like to make the Extra slides that I have available to the coordinators. If you would like to see the slides that I have please find me at the conference. This is a first come first serve deal, good luck.

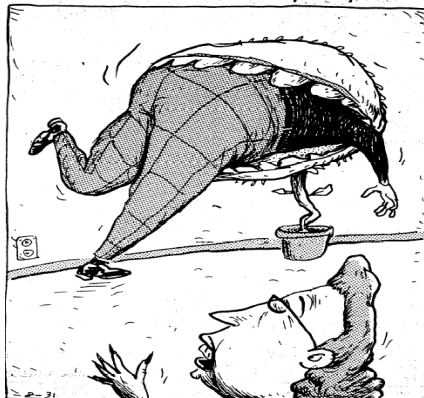
Brochures: There has been lots of interest in my posting one page brochures on the web. So I will be making an effort to do that this coming year. Please let me know what ones you would like to see on the web first. Please keep in mind that not every species will get done in the first year so please be patient.

Let me know if you have ideas for this newsletter. I know that I did not cover everything that I could have in this one and would love if you have any ideas.

I hope you enjoy this publication.

Dana Coggon
Education Specialist,
WA Noxious Weed Control Board

THE QUIGMANS by Buddy Hickerson



"No! You'll kill it! Get out of my plant, Bob! You're way too high in saturated fat!"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

State Board Meetings 2003

May 20, Snoqualmie Pass	July 15, Moses Lake	September 16, Port Townsend	November 18, Ellensburg	January 2004 Olympia
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Check the web site for exact locations or Contact Dana

Upcoming Seminars:

Lewis county and Grays harbor will hold a program on Tuesday April 8th, 2003, in Rochester, Washington. Contact Nancy or Bill for information.

Do you know of any upcoming field days, seminars, presentations please let me know so that I can include the information here.

UPDATE

THREE BOARD MEMBERS RE-APPOINTED

Three members have been re-appointed to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board since the last *Update* was published in late December. All three appointments were made by Valoria Loveland, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Tim Miller was appointed to his second full term as a Scientific Advisor. A weed scientist at Washington State University's Research and Extension Center in Mount Vernon, Dr. Miller serves on the Noxious Weed Committee and the Biennial Report Committee. His term expires in September 2005.

Joan Frazee was re-appointed Eastside Public Interest Representative. A botanist for the Lake Wenatchee Ranger district of the U.S. Forest Service, she had been on the board since May of 2002, serving out the remainder of the term of a member who resigned. Thus, this will be her first full term, and it expires in March of 2006. Ms. Frazee serves on the Education and Statewide Weed Management Plan Committees.

Dr. Joe Yenish, a weed scientist at Washington State University at Pullman, was appointed to his second full term as a Scientific Advisor. He is chair of the Special Projects Committee and also serves on the Noxious Weed Committee. His term expires in April of 2006.

YAKIMA COORDINATOR NAMED

Dick Jacobson has been assigned to a permanent position as Coordinator by the Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board. At the time the last *Update* was published, he was the "interim coordinator." Mr. Jacobson can be reached at (509) 574-2180.

KING COORDINATOR LEAVING

Jane Wentworth, Coordinator for the King County Noxious Weed Control Board since April of 1997, announced her pending resignation. Originally scheduled for the end of February, her departure has now been delayed until some time in March, to facilitate the hiring of a new Coordinator.

2003 WEED LIST PUBLISHED

Following a public hearing January 22, the State Weed Board adopted changes to the Washington State Noxious Weed List for 2003. The changes became effective 30 days later. The changes are those listed as proposed in the *Fall Update* published in October of 2002, with the exception that common groundsel, *Senecio vulgaris*, was not listed. An updated copy of Washington Administrative Code 16-750, State Noxious Weed List and Schedule of Monetary Penalties, was provided to all county and district weed programs March 4.

An electronic Copy of the 2003 Brochure was sent to the coordinators and is posted on the state web page.

Note: Have a news item for Update? Send it to Steve McGonigal, WSNWCB, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504; (360) 902-2053; SmcGonigal@agr.wa.gov.